



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

September 24, 2004

News Release

ICE IDENTIFIES MAN WANTED FOR HOMICIDE

Illegal alien arrested as part of Operation Safe Neighborhoods

OMAHA, Neb.—Special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) here have determined that a known gang member from Mexico, arrested Tuesday as a result of a “shots fired” incident in Omaha, is the subject of an outstanding criminal arrest warrant on homicide charges in Atlanta.

ICE agents discovered the warrant after Israel Najara-Cruz, 23, was arrested, and then checked his fingerprints in IDENT, a Department of Homeland Security biometric identification database that tracks immigration law offenders.

The database also includes outstanding warrants from other law enforcement agencies.

ICE transferred Najara-Cruz to Omaha Police Department custody for extradition to Georgia.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a Nebraska law enforcement initiative designed to address gun violence. ICE supports the initiative as requested with language translation skills, fraud document identification and legal status determination.

As a result of this incident, ICE also arrested four illegal aliens known to be gang members.

Since ICE support for Project Safe Neighborhoods began in August, ICE officers have arrested nine known gang members, all of them were residing in the United States illegally. In addition to immigration violations, most of those arrested have criminal records that include convictions for such crimes as: assault and battery, weapons violations, drunk driving, shoplifting, providing false information, and re-entry after deportation which is a felony offense.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.